

SEPTEMBER 15, 2020



## The Calling Card

The monthly e-newsletter of the Society for Women and the Civil War

<http://www.swcw.org>

### **SWCW LIVE!**

On **September 16th** at 7 p.m. EDST, the **Civil War Roundtable Congress** will host an engaging online interview with **SWCW President Susan Youhn**. The interview highlights our organization -- our mission, origins, and activities. Ms. Youhn has served on the SWCW Board of Directors for nearly 20 years, and as President of the Society for the past 3 years.

Join us live on Zoom to ask questions and learn more about  
SWCW and how we work.

**Registration is required at**

<https://www.cwrtcongress.org/lectures.html>

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## **The Conference on Women and the Civil War**

**Register Now!**

**Our 21st Conference, *The Women of the Shenandoah Valley*,  
will be held July 23 - 25, 2021, in Harrisonburg, Virginia.**

**For conference details, click here: <http://www.swcw.org/2021-conference-details.html> To register for the conference, click  
here: <http://www.swcw.org/2021-conference-details.html>**

Harrisonburg is the seat of Rockingham County, in the center of Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. During the Civil War, the Valley was considered the "breadbasket of the Confederacy," and control of its resources was highly

contested between the two armies. Located between the spectacular Blue Ridge and Allegheny Mountain Ranges, Harrisonburg is grounded in its historical agricultural and artisan roots, while celebrating its modern role as an academic and artistic center. Vibrant, modern and diverse, Harrisonburg is a city worthy of exploration.

To learn more about the Civil War in the Shenandoah Valley, visit [www.shenandoahatwar.org](http://www.shenandoahatwar.org)

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## News of Note

### **Where Women Made History**

During this centennial year of women's suffrage and the passage of the 19th Amendment, the **National Trust for Historic Preservation** is committed to spotlighting places -- well-known, lesser-known, and especially un-known -- where women's history happened. *Where Women Made History* is uncovering their stories, uplifting their lessons, and unlocking their potential to spark courage and insight for this generation and those to come.

One of the many Civil War heroines, Elizabeth Thorn of Gettysburg, is included on the site, thanks to a submission by SWCW Board Member **Janet Whaley**. To find Thorn's story, go to the link posted below and sort for "Pennsylvania." The SWCW visited the Gettysburg Women's Civil War Memorial and paid tribute to Thorn as part of our Conference on Women and the Civil War in July 2008.

If you would like to contribute the story of a woman who made history, go to

the National Trust's site at <https://savingplaces.org/where-women-made-history#.XoWcmMipGM8> to submit that story and photo.



### **19th Century Fashion Resource**

The website of the **Fashion Institute of America** (FIA) has two excellent resources of interest for our period of study. The first addresses clothing for women, men and children during the period of 1860-69, and includes full-color images: <https://fashionhistory.fitnyc.edu/1860-1869/>

The second reference is in regard to 19th Century retail: "Uptown, Uptown, From the Dry Goods Store to the Palace of Consumption:"

<https://fashionhistory.fitnyc.edu/downtown-uptown-1/>

### **The Civil War Roundtable Congress on YouTube**

**John Fazio's** recent lecture, "The Barlows and the Gordons," is now available on YouTube. This presentation details the story of Gen. John B. Gordon, CSA, saving the life of Gen. Francis Barlow, USA, at Gettysburg. This lecture covers the intertwining of their lives, and doesn't omit the roles of their faithful and loving wives, who nursed them each back to health from their terrible wounds.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6LV\\_mFO8rXg&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6LV_mFO8rXg&feature=youtu.be)

### **USAHEC Research Hours Expand to Weekends**

**The United States Army Heritage and Education Center** in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, is one of the premier military research facilities in the US. It preserves extensive holdings of Civil War-era documents, photographs, and artifacts available for public research.

The expanded hours of operation are now Monday through Saturday, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM; and Sunday, 12:00 PM -5:00 PM. Safety guidelines are in place to protect visitors and employees. For up-to-date information on hours and pandemic precautions, please visit USAHEC's website at [www.usahec.org](http://www.usahec.org).

### **News from Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation**

SWCW congratulates Ms. **Ashley Sonntag** on her recent appointment as Operations Manager/Museum Curator for **Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation**. Ashley is a 2019 graduate of Gettysburg College, specializing in Civil War History, and is pursuing a Masters degree in that field. She also brings to her new position a lifetime of experience in Civil War reenacting as part of the prominent Sonntag family of medical reenactors. [www.ccbf.us](http://www.ccbf.us)

## **Women's History for Young Readers**

The **Atlanta History Center** presents *Juneteenth – Super Spies Animated Comic* online

at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6Jfn89ZfOw&mc\\_cid=dbb62a8b87&mc\\_eid=637f5f4a30](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6Jfn89ZfOw&mc_cid=dbb62a8b87&mc_eid=637f5f4a30). Aimed at youth readers, *Super Spies* uses hand-drawn illustrations, historical photographs, and vivid storytelling to explore the life and activities of Harriet Tubman, Elizabeth Van Lew, and Mary Bowser during the American Civil War.



### **Research Resource: Women's Diaries**

The mission of **Civil War Digital** is “to provide the highest quality, most affordable Civil War Archives the public domain has to offer.” In addition to their impressive archives of military history, they also offer access to more than 2,000 Civil War diaries free of charge. New additions are

added to their website regularly, so check their website frequently:

[https://www.civilwardigital.com/html/civil\\_war\\_diaries.html](https://www.civilwardigital.com/html/civil_war_diaries.html)

This digital diary collection includes selections from girls and women on the home front, both North and South, as well as army nurses and refugees. These diaries are an unrivaled primary source for researching and understanding women's experiences during the Civil War.

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## Society Notices

### **BONNIE MANGAN MEMORIAL FUND**

In April, SWCW lost one of our founding members and stalwart supporters. **Bonnie Mangan** was there when our organization began in 1997. She served on our Board of Directors for many years, most recently as Vice President; and she never missed any of our conferences. Bonnie handled all of our merchandise sales, constantly coming up with new and fun ways to promote us.

To honor her memory, the SWCW has started **The Bonnie Mangan Memorial Fund**. The donations to this special fund will be forwarded to **Encore Learning**, a non-profit organization in Arlington, Virginia, which offers college-level noncredit courses and events to meet the continuing educational and social interests of those over age 50. Bonnie was both a participant and guest lecturer in Civil War women's history with Encore Learning.

You may make your donation in any amount at the "Donations" page of our website, <http://www.swcw.org/donations.html>, or you can send a check to our



mailing address at SWCW – Mangan Memorial Fund – P. O. Box 3117 – Gettysburg, PA 17325.

We appreciate your help in honoring all that Bonnie did for our Society.



### **SWCW Historical Markers Committee**

This committee is collecting information about existing monuments, memorials, markers and plaques honoring women’s Civil War service, to be used for a future database to be posted on the SWCW website. The Committee solicits input for this database: identification of the site; the honoree; the location of the site; and the sponsor of the site, if known (along with contact information). A photo or other imagery would be much appreciated as well. Information will be gratefully received at SWCW’s email address – [swcw1865@gmail.com](mailto:swcw1865@gmail.com).

## **SWCW SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

The **Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation**, one of our Organizational Partners, is developing an audio tour for the **New Market Battlefield** area in Virginia to be debuted at the end of this year. One of the 25 tour stops will elaborate on the “Civilians of New Market,” detailing their experiences and involvement as this 1864 battle swept through their town.

Each of the tour stops is available for sponsorship by individuals or organizations for a fee of \$1,000. The sponsor's name will be mentioned at the beginning of the audio tour stop. The SWCW Board believes that sponsorship of the "Civilian" tour stop is an innovative way to put our organization's name out in the community, and one which fully aligns with our mission of "recognizing the efforts of women who lived through or participated in the American Civil War."

We are asking our members and readers to join the effort to make this a reality, and are seeking your donations, in any amount, toward the fulfillment of this sponsorship opportunity. You can do so by visiting our "Donations" page at <http://www.swcw.org/donations.html>. Go to "General Donations" and use the "Comments" section of the PayPal link to let us know you want to help with the "Audio Tour Sponsorship." Or you can send a check to our mailing address: SWCW – Audio Tour Sponsorship – P. O. Box 3117 – Gettysburg, PA 17325.



**The Society for Women and the Civil War is dedicated to recognizing the efforts of women who lived through or participated in the American Civil War and those who research, reenact or otherwise honor these women of the past.**

**Join our efforts and become a member.**

<http://www.swcw.org/join-the-society.html>

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**National Register of Women's Service in the Civil War  
(NRWSCW):**

**Woman of the Month**

**Sarah “Sallie” Chapman Gordon Law**

**First Nurse of the Confederacy and “Mother of the Confederacy”**



**Born August 27, 1805, in Wilkes County, North Carolina**

**Died June 28, 1894, in Memphis, Tennessee**

**Sallie Chapman Gordon was born the daughter of Revolutionary War veteran Chapman Gordon and his wife, Charity King. She married Dr. John Sandiford Law on January 25, 1825, in Eatonton, Georgia. The couple had eight children together and operated his medical practice in Georgia and Tennessee until his death in 1843. The widowed Sallie moved her family to Memphis, as she believed the city offered better opportunities for the education of her children.**

**With the prospect of Civil War looming, Sallie led a group of women of the congregation of Memphis' Second Presbyterian Church in forming the Southern Mothers Association (SMA). Meeting in Mrs. Miles Owen's house at Madison and Third Street, they sewed uniforms for family members serving in Tennessee units even before their state's secession. As their numbers swelled, SMA moved their activity to the basement of their church.**

**In April 1861, the women of the SMA organized the Southern Mothers' Hospital, with Sallie elected as president and Mary Pope serving as secretary. In their 12-bed hospital, located in the home of Mrs. W. B. Greenlaw, they began caring for the sick, wounded, and dying Confederate soldiers in Memphis. Sallie is recorded as the first nurse serving the Confederacy.**

**Needs soon outgrew the capacity of the original hospital building and, in August 1861, the women relocated it to the north building of Irvington Block, a row of large commercial buildings on Court Square. The use of the multi-story building was donated by the owner, but operations were solely funded by the SMA. The facility served as a general hospital accommodating 2000 soldier patients. In her memoir, Sallie wrote that "at one time we had three hundred measles patients." As the patients reached the convalescent stage, they were moved into the homes of SMA members, and cared for under the direction of members' personal physicians.**

**Learning of the needs of a Confederate hospital in Columbus, Kentucky, Sallie travelled to that location to deliver excess supplies which had been gathered for the hospital in Memphis. From the steamboat *Prince* on the Mississippi**

**River, Sallie observed the Battle of Belmont, Missouri, on November 7, 1861. Sallie's only son, Confederate soldier John Gordon Law, fought in this battle.**

**The Southern Mothers' Hospital was taken over by the CSA medical department and consolidated with Overton Hospital. Overton served both Confederate military patients and wounded Federal prisoners of war. The SMA nurses continued their work in the consolidated hospital, and until the 1862 loss of Memphis to Federal forces, Sallie continued both nursing at the Overton Hospital and transporting medical supplies to Confederate field hospitals.**

**The June 1862 Federal occupation of Memphis forced the removal of Confederate military patients to a facility run by Dominican nuns at St. Agnes Academy, which was outside the city. The SMA smuggled out medical supplies from their stores in the Irving Block until the location was commandeered by Federal authorities for a prison.**

**The occupation of Memphis made the continued nursing of Confederate patients difficult. While some SMA nurses remained to care for Confederate POWs, Sallie led a SMA contingent to the La Grange, Georgia, Confederate hospital complex. \$2500.00 in Confederate currency remained in the SMA's treasury, and Sallie spent those funds on medical supplies, including opium and quinine, personally smuggling them through Federal lines to the La Grange hospitals, one of which was named Law Hospital in her honor. Sallie spent the duration of the war in Georgia, nursing and caring for the wounded; organizing the efforts of aid societies to support soldiers; and gathering and delivering clothing and supplies to Confederate forces.**

**Following the war, Sallie served until 1889 as president of the Southern Mother's Association, when it transformed into the Confederate Historical Association. The CHA was one of the first Confederate memorial societies and, presided over by Sallie, helped erect monuments and mark soldiers' graves.**

**For her humanitarianism and philanthropy, Sallie Law was referred to by Confederate veterans as "The Mother of the Confederacy." Her 16-page pamphlet memoir chronicling thirty years of service, *Reminiscences of the***

***War of the Sixties between the North and South*, was published by the Memphis Printing Co. in 1892.**

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***The Calling Card* accepts submissions.**

We are keen to share the achievements of our members, and to advertise the activities of the Civil War and Women's History communities. We also welcome individual research requests, notifications about educational and archival resources, and ideas for suggested reading lists.

Please send your submissions to [swcw1865@gmail.com](mailto:swcw1865@gmail.com), and please write Calling Card in the subject field.  
(Submissions may be edited for brevity or clarity.)

*The Calling Card* is distributed on the 15th of each month, and our deadline for same-month submissions is the 10th.



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